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PROPOSED ROSTER OF INDEPENDENT EXPERTS

Note by the Secretariat

1. Paragraph 2 of Article 24 of the Convention to Combat Desertification (CCD) provides that: "The Conference of the Parties shall establish and maintain a roster of independent experts with expertise and experience in the relevant fields. The roster shall be based on nominations received in writing from the Parties, taking into account the need for a multidisciplinary approach and broad geographical representation."

2. By its decision 10/11, taken at its tenth session, the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for Desertification (INCD) invited Parties to submit in writing, through diplomatic channels, nominations of independent experts for the roster, taking into account the need for a multidisciplinary approach, an appropriate gender balance and a broad and equitable geographic distribution. The same decision requested the Secretariat to prepare a list of nominations received by 31 May 1997, and to submit the list to the first session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 1) for the establishment of the roster of experts, after review by the Committee on Science and Technology. Under the draft terms of reference for the establishment and maintenance of the roster (document ICCD/COP(1)/2), nominees are to have expertise and experience in fields relevant to combating desertification and drought, and the roster should include expertise from grass-roots and non-governmental organizations.

3. In preparing to compile the list of nominations, the Secretariat developed a format for curricula vitae (document ICCD/COP(1)/6/Add.1, Annex II) together with an indicative list of disciplines (document ICCD/COP(1)/6/Add.1, Annex III). These were then circulated to all INCD members. The Secretariat requested Parties to complete it for return to the Secretariat through diplomatic channels. Annex I of document ICCD/COP(1)/6/Add.1 extracts the country of submission, name, gender, institution and major disciplines of experience or expertise of the nominees. Annex IV of document ICCD/COP(1)/6/Add.1 reflects general characteristics of the proposed roster.

4. The list shows:

- (a) there are 584 nominations;
- (b) nominations come from the countries listed in Annex IV;
- (c) as indicated in Annex IV(a), 69% of the nominations came from eleven Parties, each of which submitted in excess of 20 nominations: Brazil, Cuba, Egypt, France, Ghana, India, Italy, Morocco, Pakistan, Portugal, Spain;

- (d) as indicated in Annex IV(b), there is representation from most disciplines identified but adequate representation is lacking from the following disciplines: anthropology and sociology, health sciences, legislation, microbiology, and trade; and
- (e) as indicated in Annex IV(c), there are 514 men and 70 women. Men represent 88% and women 12% of nominees.

5. Bearing in mind the relevant provisions of the Convention and the recommendations of the INCD, the COP may wish to consider any recommendations from the Committee on Science and Technology regarding the establishment of the roster, including possible guidance to the Secretariat as to steps to be undertaken for making the roster more balanced in terms of geographical distribution, disciplines and gender representation.